

Listing of the Claims:

The listing of the claims below replace all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to access to a voicemail service comprising:

~~a customer premises equipment (CPE) at a user location for use by a user, the CPE comprising a plurality of character and digit keys for use in dialing a sequence of characters and digits; and~~

a central office switch in communication with ~~the CPE~~ a customer premises equipment (CPE), the central office switch comprising:

a supplementary service processor operative to receive the a sequence of characters ~~and digits selected by the user~~ from the CPE, generate a query to a supplementary service database when the sequence of characters ~~and digits~~ is a predetermined n-character ~~and digit~~ messaging sequence where $n < 7$, and receive a call forwarding number from the supplementary service database; wherein the central office switch is operative to connect the CPE with a voicemail service in response to the call forwarding number; and

wherein the supplementary service processor may access the supplementary service database ~~is operative to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service~~, to determine whether the a user has access to the voicemail service based on using a caller identifier and to receive ~~transmit~~ the call forwarding number from the supplementary service database to the central office switch if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch is further operative to prevent access to the voicemail service in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch further comprises a router.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch further comprises an error handler for sending an error message to the CPE in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the n-character ~~and digit~~ messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character.
6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein n = 3.
7. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 6, wherein the 3-character ~~and digit~~ messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character followed by a two number sequence.
8. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the n-character ~~and digit~~ messaging sequence comprises ~~consists of~~ the sequence *98.
9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the supplementary service processor further comprises a routing table for storing a call forwarding number for a user that has access the voicemail service.
10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein the supplementary service database further comprises a redirecting identifier for connecting the user to an error message when the user is temporarily prevented from using the predetermined n-character ~~and digit~~ messaging sequence to access the voicemail service.
11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions ~~method~~ for controlling a user's access to a voicemail service ~~from a customer premises equipment (CPE) that is coupled with a central office switch, the method comprising, the set of instructions to direct a computer system to perform acts~~ of:

(a) ~~receiving an n-character and digit messaging sequence selected by the user and transmitted from the CPE~~ a customer premises equipment (CPE), where $n < 7$;

(b) determining whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service based on the n-character message sequence;

(c) determining whether the user has access to the voicemail service based on using a caller identifier; and

~~(e)~~ (d) connecting the CPE to the voicemail service if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 11, wherein the n-character and digit messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 11, wherein the n-character and digit messaging sequence comprises ~~consists of~~ the sequence *98.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 11, wherein (d) ~~(e)~~ comprises using a call forwarding number to connect the CPE to the voicemail service.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 11, further comprising:

~~(d)~~ (e) preventing access to the voicemail service if the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions ~~method~~ for controlling a user's access to a voicemail service ~~from a customer premises equipment (CPE) that is coupled with a central office switch, the method comprising, the set of instructions to direct a computer system to perform acts~~ of:

- (a) receiving, at the a central office switch, an n-character and digit messaging sequence selected by the user, where $n < 7$;
- (b) generating a query in response to (a) to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service based on whether a service code is present in the n-digit message sequence and to determine whether the user has access o the voicemail service based on a caller identifier;
- ~~(c) determining whether the user has access to the voicemail service using a caller identifier, in response to receipt of the query;~~
- (d) (c) receiving sending a call forwarding number to the central office switch if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service; and
- (e) (d) connecting the CPE to the voicemail service using the call forwarding number.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 16, further comprising:

- (f) (e) preventing access to the voicemail service in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 16, further comprising:

- (f) (e) sending an error message to the CPE in response to a determination that the user is not allowed access to the voicemail service.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 16, wherein (b) comprises transmitting a caller identifier from the central office switch to a supplementary service database.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium ~~method~~ of Claim 19, wherein (c) further comprises verifying the query is further generated to determine whether the user identified by the caller identifier subscribes to the voicemail service.